

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

FARMERS' MARKET WEEK

WHEREAS, farmers' markets play a vital role in giving farms direct access to consumers; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets provide the public with ready access to high quality fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, organic items, cheeses, baked goods, meats, homemade preserves and more that are fresh, traceable and competitively priced; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets are an important component of a comprehensive local economic development strategy that fosters community engagement, supports local farmers, promotes health and wellness and provides access points for healthy food in neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of farmers' markets include direct benefits to farmers and business owners, but also indirect benefits to the community in stimulating downtown revitalization, enhancing parks and waterfronts and preserving farmland through economic viability; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of Virginia's farmers' markets continues to grow, from 88 markets in 2006 to 208 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, farmers' markets are good for the economy, good for consumers' health and good for the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize August 5–11, 2012 as **FARMERS' MARKET WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.



Refat Macell
Governor

Secretary of the Commonwealth